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**EDITORIAL**

**Our View**

**Tuition increase should be considered to avoid excess fees**

One fee, two fee, blue fee, Green fee. The University seems to constantly add new fees, and it is frustrating to say the least.

The latest addition to the collection of fees is the proposed Green Initiative Fund. This is a student-appropriated fee, which will, if approved sometime next year, provide funding to sustainability projects on campus (see story, page 3). Although the cost of this fee will be low — anywhere from \$2 to \$10 — the fact of the matter is we are paying a handful of excess fees outside the cost of tuition, and it misrepresents Truman's "affordability."

Instead of adding fee upon fee, just raise tuition — already. We currently are one of the cheapest universities in the state, and most other schools are raising their rates. That way, instead of paying tuition plus a \$52 health fee, a \$100 athletic fee, an \$82 activities fee and a green fee, we could write one big check to the University and call it a day.

We respect the fact that the University is trying to keep tuition low, but tacking on extra fees to make ends meet is just a roundabout way to help solve the budget problems. Raising tuition might upset students for a couple of months when the semester starts, but continually adding fees throughout the year will be worse, leaving the student body frequently at odds with the decisions of the administration. No one is expecting tuition to stay the same — being real about the cost of Truman would be better than burying students with hidden fees.

We agree that this green fee could fund beneficial and necessary projects on campus. However, it seems to be a way for the University to charge students more for the things the University should be doing anyway. Solar-powered energy, better recycling projects and energy efficient residence halls are more than luxuries — They ensure the sustainability of the University for future generations. The finances for these advancements should not be placed solely on the student body. This isn't like the activities fee that brings entertainment to campus solely for the benefit of the students. Society is headed down a green road, and whether Truman likes it or not, it needs to pay the price to keep up with the times.

What's more puzzling about these fees is when students have a say in them. Some fees are added automatically to our bill, like the health fee. With others, we have more input. The athletic fee and the activities fee come up for review every three years, and if a change is made, the fee comes up for a vote. What will happen with this green fee? If given the option to pay extra to increase Truman's sustainability, something the University already should be doing, most students probably will opt out.

We admit having the fees broken down, apart from the cost of tuition, allows students to see exactly where their money is going. However, for a broke college student, seeing a few hundred extra dollars outside of the approximately \$6,500 cost of in-state tuition is more than overwhelming. If tuition was raised enough to incorporate all the added fees, your Truman bill would contain one scary number instead of five.

The required fees do a lot for the University — we aren't denying that. They provide us with entertainment, improved athletic facilities and maybe a more eco-friendly campus one day. However, we give this University enough money. So, please, stop bombarding us with excess fees, and while this is difficult to say without panicking a bit, just raise tuition so we can have one financial heart attack each year and move on with our lives.

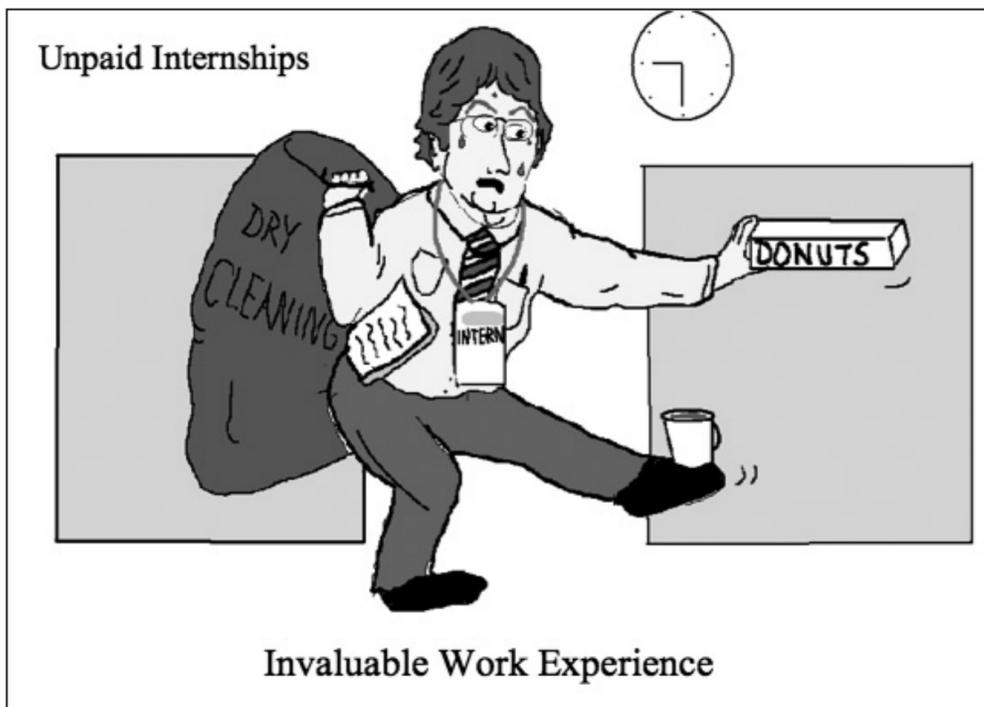
**corrections**

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail [index@truman.edu](mailto:index@truman.edu), call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

\* The deck on the tennis story on page 15 of the March 31 edition of the Index should read: "Amy Ochs and Ellen Russell in middle of second year at No. 1 doubles."

**cartoons**

By Danny Jaschek



By Allison Bannister

Today	Tomorrow	Saturday	Sunday	6-10 days
				Extended Forecast
Thunderstorms High: 71 Low: 43	Sunny High: 95 Low: 64	Partly Cloudy High: 33 Low: 26	Mixed Sun and Precipitation High: 85 Low: 16	



**Letter to the Editor**

**Index website makes commenting difficult**

I have noticed lately that in order to post responses to an article or editorial on the Index's website, users are presented with two options. Either they can use a Facebook login or the can post anonymously.

When posting an anonymous response, one takes the risk of being thought cowardly for not identifying oneself, even if just for the sake of conversation. As Larry Iles so succinctly put it "I do not usually as readers will be cognisant trouble to reply comment to any

anonymous online comments on my open public signed letters."

Ok, maybe "succinctly" wasn't the right word to use there, but you get the idea.

So if we wish to comment and identify ourselves, now we have to sign up for Facebook. I would really rather not. People who have a "social network" don't need to create one online. More and more, Facebook is a place for people to gripe about their jobs (and sometimes get fired for it), show pictures of how much they lowered themselves on spring break, post inane comments about other people's inane comments and generally troll.

So, this new login procedure leaves your readers with three options:

1. Opt out of commenting on articles they find interesting.
2. Post anonymously, which mutes conversation.
3. Join the "Jerry Springer Social Club."

At the very least, could you make it so that the name you enter when you post without logging in shows up as the name of the poster?

*Robert Barber  
Arizona resident*

**INDEX**

Serving the University community since 1909

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**Editorial Policy**

The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449.

The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, copy chief and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

**Letters Policy**

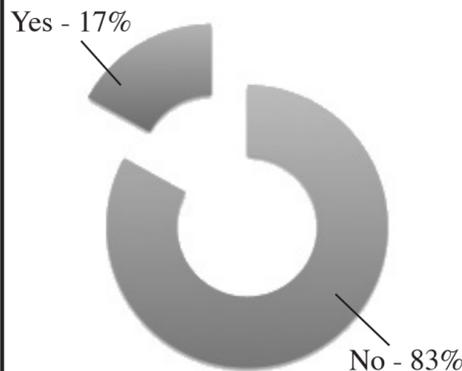
The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at [index@truman.edu](mailto:index@truman.edu) or on our website at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com). Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

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**Web Poll**

Does Student Senate assess the needs of its constituents?



This week's web poll question:

Are unpaid internships a fair means of experience?

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